



Foundation for Excellent Schools

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MAYOR EDDIE PEREZ AND FES TO SPONSOR HARTFORD'S FIRST EARLY COLLEGE AWARENESS BLITZ ON MAY 6

All 36 public schools in Hartford, CT will participate in the *Early College Awareness Blitz* on **Thursday, May 6, between 9 and 10 a.m.** The event will be a key rallying point in the second **Annual Early Awareness Week**, sponsored by Foundation for Excellent Schools (FES), Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, National Association for College Admission Counseling, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, dozens of other nonprofit organizations, and 35 colleges and universities from around the nation.

During the Blitz, presidents, admission officers, faculty, students, and alumni from colleges and universities throughout Connecticut will carry the message **“College is for You,”** to the Hartford students. As Goodwill Ambassadors from higher education, the speakers will describe in both practical and inspirational terms what it takes to access, prepare for, and succeed in college.

Through large assemblies, small-group discussions, college catalogue “Scavenger Hunts,” and engaging and informative games, the Ambassadors will interact with students around the college theme. Students at one school, the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, have created a special jingle about college that will be performed, and are in the process of creating inspirational posters that will be displayed at all Hartford schools.

“The Early College Awareness Blitz reinforces our education vision for the City,” said **Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez**. “It’s a great opportunity to jump-start our students’ dreams and get them on track toward the bright futures they deserve.”

“College songs will play in the hallways and students and teachers will dress in alma mater t-shirts and mascot costumes,” said **Rick Dalton, president of FES**. “We want the whole event to celebrate the potential of every Hartford student to achieve success in higher education and beyond.”



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Superintendent of Hartford Schools Robert Henry believes that “it’s just as important for kindergartners to be thinking about a future that involves college as it is for high school students.”

“We are collaborating with 20 Connecticut-based alumni clubs from colleges across the country and networking with several other organizations to ensure that the 23,000 students enrolled in Hartford schools hear the college message,” said Dalton.

Among these groups are the Urban League Young Professionals of Greater Hartford and the Metro Hartford Chamber of Commerce.

For information on **Early College Awareness Week** and the **May 6 Blitz** in Hartford, contact **Rick Dalton**, 802-462-3170 (Dalton@fesnet.org) or **Jody Becker** of the Hartford Public Schools, 860-695-8432 (jbecker@hartfordschools.org). You may also contact **Kelvin Roldan**, Special Assistant and Director of Community Initiatives in Mayor Perez’s Office at (860) 543-8500 (kroldan@hartford.gov).